

WSM, August 20, 1944

Good Morning, Friends:

Important happenings have been recorded during the last week in Washington. But important as they are, the attention not only of Washington but of the world has been ~~centered~~ ^{riveted} on the magnificent victories being won in France. In Normandy, the German forces appeared ~~to~~ to have been routed. In Southern France, the landing which was made on Tuesday is progressing, according to a high War Department official, ahead of schedule. The Allied invasion of Southern France ~~was~~ ^{has been} described here as the worst kept secret of the war. True though this may be, it is, nevertheless, a significant straw in the wind. Certainly there was a notable contrast between Tuesday's invasion of Southern France and the initial landings in North Africa and the across-the-channel landing in France. In those earlier operations, every precaution was taken to guard the secret. But the impending invasion of Southern France seemed to be almost a matter of common knowledge. Even the Germans announced hours prior to the landing that the invasion convoys were under way. Apparently, however, to be forewarned did not mean that the Germans would be fore-armed, because it has been officially announced that after many hours of operations only 300 casualties were ~~recorded~~ ^{sustained}, which is an extremely light loss for such a major operation. What does this mean? We can only guess that the need for extreme secrecy ~~has~~ ^{is} declined because the German position has so deteriorated that there is no longer any doubt of Allied ability to land on enemy-held coasts whether they know it or not. Secret or no secret, the Germans were busily engaged trying to extricate themselves from a most difficult situation in France. High officials in Washington are elated over the victories and promise new triumphs to come.

to be busy to counter-attack in opposing the landing

The whole nation, though, must have been sobered by the announcement that American battle casualties in Normandy for the past two months were 112,673.

Of this number 16,434 were killed, 76,000 hurt, and 19,700 missing. Assuming that one half of those listed as missing were captured, this would make nearly 27,000 killed. It's nice to read the headlines about the victories and about ~~the~~ *the crumbling* resistance of the enemy ~~crumbling~~, but everytime we read an optimistic headline, let us remember the lives that are being lost and the suffering of ~~those~~ *the* wounded.

President Roosevelt returned to Washington last Thursday, from a 15,000 mile wartrip into the Pacific. *Before leaving his train* ~~Just as he got to the Capitol~~, he gave out a statement that Allied armies would drive in and occupy Germany and Japan, even though they should give up before their territory was reached. The President said that this time Germany would not escape the military occupation which she dodged by the Armistice which ended the other world war. President Roosevelt said, also, that he expected to have another conference with Primeminister Churchill soon, but declined to give any hint as to the date or place of the meeting. *the*

The House of Representatives spent ~~a~~ *the* week debating a bill to dispose of ~~the~~ surplus war goods, but failed to reach a decision and will resume consideration of the bill *tomorrow*. Meanwhile, the Senate is holding committee hearings on the same bill just as House committee work is proceeding with the reconversion bill.

One ~~of the~~ provisions of the reconversion bill provides that the government pay the travel expenses *of* workers in war plants to return to their homes. For instance, if a person from Kentucky or Tennessee who has gone to Southern California to work in the Douglas Aircraft Plant decides to come home when the job there is finished, the government would be required *under this bill* to pay his travel *in* expenses.

As for me, I can't see any sense in this. This worker undoubtedly went of ~~his~~ ^{California, or Cal} ~~their~~ own free choice and ~~has~~ ^{they very} probably ^{have} been making the highest wages ~~he~~ ^{they} ever made in ~~his~~ ^{their} life. So I don't see why the taxpayers should be called upon to pay ~~his~~ ^{their} expenses back home. If ~~he~~ ^{they} wants to come home, let ~~him~~ ^{them} save enough money out of ~~his~~ ^{their} high wages to pay ~~his~~ ^{their} own expenses.

I will give further discussion ~~to~~ ^{of} this bill when it finally reaches the floor of Congress for action.

A development fraught with far-reaching meaning to the people of the United States and to the nations of the world was the agreement between Secretary Hull and the Republican presidential nominee, Governor Thomas E. Dewey, to have orderly consultations on foreign policy developments. To begin with, Governor Dewey gave out a statement criticizing what he said he understood to be the tentative proposal to be considered by the great international conference soon to be held ~~in~~ ^{near here} by representatives of the United States, Great Britain, Russia and China. Governor Dewey was very critical of what he understood to be the probability that the small nations of the world would be left without any voice or part in the peace structure. The ~~next~~ day after Governor's Dewey's statement, Secretary Hull answered by saying that Governor Dewey's fears were utterly and completely unfounded because, as he pointed out, it had been the position of this government throughout that there should be a democratic organization of nations with every nation desiring peace having its proper and proportionate part to play. Secretary Hull recalled that in the Moscow declaration ^{in his statement} the four big nations placed themselves on record as advocating a general international organization based on the principle of sovereign equality of all

peace-loving states and open to membership of all such states.

One of the newspaper reporters then asked Secretary Hull if he would welcome a conference with Governor Dewey on post-war security problems. The great Secretary ~~then~~ replied that he would welcome such a conference with Governor Dewey or with others who come solely in a non-partisan spirit and with a will and disposition to sit down in conference and offer any feasible cooperation entirely free from personal political partisanship. The ^{very} next day, last Friday, Governor Dewey sent a wire to Secretary Hull accepting the invitation and said he was appointing as his agent and representative, Mr. John Foster Dulles, a New York Attorney with wide experience in international ^{affairs} ~~relations~~ who is generally recognized as Governor Dewey's chief advisor on questions of foreign policy.

This is an important development because it is another step in the direction of ¹ ~~left~~ing American foreign policy above the level of partisan politics. Mistakes in foreign policy are tremendously costly. ^{too costly to be left to the shifting whims} The United States is now so powerful and its position of world leadership is so preeminent that whatever we do in the field of international relations affects nations and people everywhere. It is not impossible to make foreign policy a by-partisan matter. After all, the Monroe Doctrine has throughout the years been supported by both political parties and has become so deeply embedded in American tradition and in the conviction of the American people that ~~neither~~ neither party would dare repudiate it.

After the victory is won, the first concern not only of both of our political parties but of all the American people must be the creation of an abiding world peace structure. Other nations of the world have been skeptical of the ability of the United States to play its proper part because of not only

our past political history but also of the present intensity of political rivalries. Therefore, this move for bi-partisan conferences between Secretary Hull and the representative of the Republican nominee for President bodes good. It is in line with Secretary Hull's already established policy of conferring with bi-partisan committees from Congress. After all, Republicans and Democrats are fighting in our armed forces not as separate units but as one great united force. Establishment of a peaceful and orderly world civilized structure is no less important than the winning of complete victory over the forces of aggression and enslavement. There is no sound reason why this peace structure can not likewise be a bi-partisan program. To say the least of the matter, it will help a great deal for the Republican presidential nominee to be well informed because if he is fully informed of developments and the proposals by this government, he will be less apt to give out unfounded and hurtful statements.